

INDEPENDENT

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## Liability Companies Seeking To Regain Stranglehold On Workmen's Insurance

**Make Determined Effort to Have Rules of Ohio Industrial Commission Changed to Enable Them to Evade Provisions of Compensation Law — Movement is Opposed by State Federation of Labor.**

The liability insurance companies, whose business in Ohio was practically wiped out by the Workmen's Compensation Law, passed in the early days of the General Assembly of 1913, and who were quiescent for a time, have renewed their efforts to regain a foothold in the state and are pushing their claims with every power at their command.

Today (Saturday, July 17) they will file a brief with the State Industrial Commission urging that the rules of the commission be so modified as to permit them again to do business in the state unhampered.

This contention of the insurance companies is combated by the Ohio State Federation of Labor, under the leadership of Thomas J. Donnelly, its legislative agent, and the matter will be threshed out, first before the commission and later probably in the courts.

It is the contention of the Ohio State Federation of Labor that under the law as it now stands, and under the regulations of the Industrial Commission, the liability companies have no legal right to do an employers' indemnity business in Ohio and the Federation will do everything within its power to prevent the companies from gaining a foothold and weakening the operations of the Compensation Law.

### Working on Willis.

The Industrial Commission, as at present composed, consists of two Democrats and one Republican, and ever since the inauguration of Governor Willis the companies have been trying to get the governor to go over the heads of the commission by having its rules so amended as to permit their operation in the state. So far the governor has declined to interfere, and the Federation is hopeful that the executive will continue to keep his hands off.

In the two years of its operation the compensation law has given entire satisfaction to workmen and to a large percentage of the better class of employers of the state; it has proved to be just and equitable to all parties and has

effectually eliminated the numerous law suits that were the natural outcome of having to deal with the liability companies which sought every legal technicality available to evade the payment of claims for accident or death.

Notwithstanding the fact that both the law and the rules of the Industrial Commission ignore the liability companies, and they are not licensed to do an employers' liability business in the state, the companies have been operating quietly. They have gone to a number of employers who are susceptible to the argument that it is cheaper for them to carry their own liability than to pay the dues required by the state and have induced them to take out policies.

In case of accident or death in such factories, the Industrial Commission has ignored the liability companies entirely and dealt directly with the owner or owners of the plant where the accident or death occurred. This has nettled the companies and they are demanding that the commission deal directly with them.

The law provides that when a company is financially and morally responsible for any liability that may accrue on account of accident or death of its employees, it shall be liable for the same. The law also provides that in the event of life employers who have made provisions to care for their injured or dead in the same amounts and in the same manner as provided by the law, it may, in the discretion of the commission, be exempt from the dues required by law to maintain the state fund. But nowhere in the law is it provided that these provisions may be made by taking out a policy with a liability company.

The experience of working men of Ohio with liability companies has taught them that in most instances they are buying law suits and not protection when they do business with these concerns. It was the object of the framers and supporters of the Workmen's Compensation Law to eliminate these companies for the protection of the workmen and their families, and organized labor of the state will fight to the end to see that the workings of that law are not nullified by any rules that may permit the companies to evade the spirit, if not the letter, of the law and again fasten their tenacles upon the wage earners of the state.

## Street Carmen Hold Two Busy Business Sessions

**Second Regular Meeting in July Draws Large Number of Membership to Attendance — Delegates to Central Labor Council Make Report — Prize Winners Announced**

By Charles H. Sampson.

Second regular meeting of Queen City Division 627, Amalgamated Association of Street Car Employees, for the month of July was held on the 15th.

Late men met at 9:30 a. m. at Teamsters' Hall. About 500 members were present. Although the weather was exceedingly warm the hall was comparatively comfortable. President Jones called the meeting to order. Roll call showed all officers present.

Bills were read and ordered paid. Communications were read and disposed of according to the nature of matters referred to.

The report of the business agent was read and ordered received by the members. Smith, Ross, Haubrock, Jones, delegates to Central Labor Council, reported the action taken on matters handled by that board and a head of Good and Well

of the Division, talks were made by a great many of the members.

The picnic committee reported that Brother A. Bommer of Walnut Hills Station had secured the first prize in the picnic ticket selling contest, \$50 in gold. The second prize was awarded to Robert Gerrard of Hyde Park Station, \$25 in gold. The third prize was awarded to Julius Luchsinger of Clifton and Elm Station, \$15 in gold.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p. m. Evening meeting was called to order by President Jones at 8 p. m. The usual routine of business was carried out. E. L. Hitchens of the Typographical Union made an eloquent speech in which he lauded the great work of the

Heberle "sitting with her nose to the wheel." "She's wearing a veil loaned by her grandmother. Isn't it a beauty?" "It certainly is," replied her husband, "but just look at the white waistcoat the bridegroom is wearing. He borrowed that from me."



THOMAS H. GRAYDON,

President of the Macdonald &amp; Kiley Shoe Co., and a staunch friend of the laborer.

## Pink Teas and Welfare Work Hurt Women's Trade Unions

**President Samuel Gompers of the A. F. of L. Says Women Workers Will Accomplish Nothing So Long as They Train With Social Uplifters and Agitators.**

Washington.—In the American Federationist, July issue, President Gompers calls on women workers to join the trade union movement, to depend on themselves, and not allow their organizations to be weakened and stifled by the futile efforts of so-called "uplifters." He also declares it is absolutely necessary for women to be accorded the right of suffrage. On this subject he says:

"Whenever opportunity and development are restricted, there influence and power are also restricted. Women cannot assume equal rights with free men in the industrial struggle while classified with idiots and irresponsibles in political affairs.

"As a matter of justice, working women demand the ballot. They demand the right to participate in the determinations of political affairs because they are affected by those determinations. The ballot cannot long be denied them. The ballot will bring power, because it will bring full citizenship."

President Gompers gives these reasons for organization of women workers:

"But industrial freedom must be fought out on the industrial field. It will be achieved when wage-earning women hold in their own hands the right and the power to participate in determining the conditions under which they shall work and the wages they shall receive. They can delegate this power and responsibility to no outside authority if they wish industrial freedom.

"There is no easy way—but if any life is worth while it is the clear ideal of a rational individual will to live his or her own life in full action of the opportunities and the washings of freedom. Protection and ket, from may offer immediate relief—fools are not freedom."

"Industrial freedom is not a sex problem—it is a human problem. The same principles apply to men and women alike.

"The women's movement for freedom must be real and candid; it must not allow itself to be suffocated or devitalized by the frivolities and pink-tea imitations that have so long kept women from healthy, sane living. Those who profit by the exploitation of women will offer substitutes for the trade union movement—welfare work, vocational associations, and other charitable or semi-charitable institutions. The fight of women for industrial freedom is made doubly difficult by the usable tradition of the economic dependence of women, by patronizing social workers and by those who would protect woman in order to keep her from exercising her own will power and becoming a member of society upon equality with all.

"The trade union movement is the movement that offers women the opportunity to secure freedom as well as industrial protection.

"The recent convention (Women's Trade Union League) ought to put new life into efforts to organize women into trade unions to increase wages and better conditions, and this problem of organizing women cannot be separated from the problem of organizing men. Men must join the women in efforts to solve the common problem or else they will find women used against them as competitors.

"Recently Mr. J. C. Butler, Jr., president of the Bessemer Pig Iron association, said in regard to the idea of employing women in the metal industries: 'It would not be surprising to find thousands of women in mills, blast furnaces and mines, doing the work of men before the war is over.'

"The American Federation of Labor has helped to organize women as a necessary part of the campaign to organize and federate all the workers in a great movement for human welfare. Women are admitted to organizations on an equality with men and have equal rights and privileges in the organization. The trade union movement for all, regardless of sex, nationality, politics, race or creed."

## Woolworth Store Unfair Says Council

**Building Trades Take Action on Complaint of Steamfitters—Officers and Delegates are Nominated.**

Owing to its persistent refusal to employ union steamfitters, the S. H. Knox, branch of the Woolworth Five and Ten Cent store, on East Fifth street, was placed on the unfair list at the regular meeting of the Cincinnati Building Trades Council Thursday night.

Both Business Agent Fred Hock, of the Council, and Phil Fischer, business agent of the local union, reported that their efforts to have the management of the store employ union men, had failed.

Dr. Herman Titus of Spokane, Wash., addressed the Council on the subject of a shorter working day.

President Cullen presided at the meeting. After the minutes of the previous meeting and the report of Business Agent Fred Hock had been read and approved, nominations for delegates for the coming year to the Council were presented by the following organizations:

Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, District Council No. 12; P. C. Gasdorf, J. C. Kunzelman, Lawrence Cutter, L. A. Dittman, William Robb, Charles Lohrum.

International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, Local Union No. 44; Thomas McEwen, Charles Mueller, James Davis, Thomas Galloway.

Nominations for officers of the Council for the coming year was then in order, and the following incumbents were renominated without opposition:

President, Joseph A. Cullen; vice-president, Phil Fischer; recording secretary, Fred Hock; financial secretary, Joseph Nolde; conductor, J. McHale; sergeant-at-arms, G. Koch; trustees, Tom Anderson, Charles Mueller, P. C. Gasdorf, George Meinders, Charles Lohrum. Three to be elected. The election will be held next Thursday.

It was decided that the annual banquet would be held this year on July 29. The following committee on arrangements was appointed: Lohrum, Gasdorf and Anderson.

All trades reported business good.

## WORK ON COURT HOUSE GOING FORWARD WITH COMMENDABLE SPEED

Much of the chagrin that was caused by the failure of a Cincinnati firm to get the contract for the construction of the new Hamilton county Court House has been removed by the businesslike way in which the Charles McCaul Company of Philadelphia, the successful bidder, is proceeding with the work.

Under the direct supervision of Thomas R. Russell, a builder of experience, the work is progressing in a most satisfactory manner. Mr. Russell's work is not unknown in this section of the state as he had charge of the construction of the Court House at Dayton.

The excavating work for the foundation has been completed and already three tests as to the strength required have been made and found to be wholly satisfactory. At one corner of the building, owing to the presence of quicksand at a considerable depth, the fourth test at that point was found to be not up to requirements and thus the completion of the tests was delayed for thirty days. A report on this has been due for two or three days and likely will have arrived by the time this article is in print. With its arrival the contractors will be ready to proceed at once with construction work.

To facilitate progress the building will be divided into two parts to enable each class of work to follow in its regular order without undue delay from waiting on the preceding class of construction.

Herbert B. Knox, of Philadelphia, president, secretary-treasurer of the McCaul Company, will come to Cincinnati as soon as a report is received on the final test for the foundation and supervise the preliminary work. After everything is in running order Mr. Knox will return to Philadelphia and the building will be in charge of Mr. Russell. However, Mr. Knox will make frequent visits to Cincinnati during the progress of the work to confer with his managing foreman.